

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, CM, CH
SUBJECT: CHINESE DIPLOMAT COMMENTS ON US-PRC RELATIONS

1. AMBASSADOR'S THIRTEEN YEAR OLD SON ALEXANDER, ON UTA FLIGHT FROM PARIS TO DOUALA DECEMBER 17, SAT NEXT TO TWO ORIENTAL-LOOKING GENTLEMEN IN THIRTIES WHOM HE TOOK TO BE JAPANESE. ONE OF THESE ENGAGED HIM IN CONVERSATION AND WHEN ALEXANDER AVERRED HE AMBSON, HIS NEIGHBOR SAID THAT HE WAS PRC DIPLOMAT RETURNING TO PRC EMBASSY YAOUNDE AFTER A COUPLE OF YEARS' ABSENCE. HE HAD ENGLISH-CHINESE DICTIONARY ON LAP DURING CONVERSATION.

2. PRC DIP DEALT WITH THREE TOPICS: CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONS, EX-PRESIDENT NIXON, AND CHAIRMAN HUA. HE ASKED AMBSON WHAT HE THOUGHT OF RELATIONS. AMBSON THOUGHT THEY WERE IMPROVING, AND CHIDIP AGREED. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT EX-PRESIDENT NIXON, AMBSON SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ALL RIGHT UNTIL WATERGATE. CHIDIP ASKED INCREDULOUSLY WHETHER AMBSON ACTUALLY CONSIDERED WATERGATE BAD OR IMPORTANT AND SNICKERED UPON RECEIVING AFFIRMATIVE REPLY. HE REASSURED AMBSON THAT US-PRC RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE BECAUSE CHAIRMAN MAO HAD PERSONALLY APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN, WHO WAS DESTROYING DISSIDENT FOUR. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HUA IS GENUINE LEADER AND VERY POPULAR.

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3. AT AIRPORT FAREWELL FOR DEPARTING DEAN OF DIPCORPS, AMBASSADOR OF ZAIRE, WHO WILL REPRESENT THIS COUNTRY IN PEKING, AMBWIFE TOLD PRC CHARGE, AS USUAL THROUGH HIS INTERPRETER, OF AMBSON'S ENCOUNTER WITH CHIDIP REMARKING ON INTERESTING CONVERSATION WITH YOUNG BOY. CHARGE AND INTERPRETER PROFESSED TOTAL IGNORANCE, DENYING THAT ANY OF THEIR PERSONNEL HAD TRAVELED

PARIS TO DOUALA ON DAY IN QUESTION, AND PASSING ON, AS ALWAYS,
TO QUESTION OF HOW MANY CHILDREN WE HAVE, A SUBJECT ON WHICH
THEY HAVE BEEN BRIEFED MANY TIMES.

4. COMMENT. ALEXANDER'S CONVERSATION COMES CLOSE TO RECORD OF
SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE IN TALKS WITH PRC REPS HERE. HE THINKS
HIS MOTHER SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE TOLD PRC CHARGE ABOUT HIS
ENCOUNTER, FOR FEAR THIS WILL HARM HIS INTERLOCUTOR WHO SEEMED
QUOTE NICE UNQUOTE.
SPIRO

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